

CAPSULE SUMMARY

BA-2099

Phoenix Methodist Episcopal Church

14200 Mount Avenue

Phoenix, Baltimore County

1888

Private

The Phoenix Methodist Episcopal Church, constructed in 1888, is representative of the many vernacular wood frame churches erected in small towns and rural communities throughout Baltimore County in the late 19th and early 20th century. The church dates to a second phase of growth, occurring in the late 19th century, in the milling community of Phoenix. Phoenix was established in the mid-1800s, when Thomas H. Fulton erected cotton mills in the area in 1847. After Fulton's death in 1851, the factory experienced several changes of ownership until 1875, when it was purchased by Robert Garrett and Joseph W. Jenkins. By 1877, Phoenix, which was located along the Northern Central Railroad, was already well established with mills, stores, dwellings, and related buildings. The new owners discontinued production for five years, and then, in 1881, they resumed mill operations. Shortly after reopening, the mill employed over 200 people from Phoenix and the surrounding community. Many of the buildings in the village of Phoenix date to this later period of the mill's ownership. Although the 1915 county atlas indicates that the community continued to thrive through the early 20th century, growth in Phoenix did not continue into the mid-1900s.

The Phoenix Methodist Episcopal Church is a one-and-a-half-story wood frame building clad in vinyl siding with a solid random rubble stone foundation and an asphalt-shingled front gable roof. The three-bay-wide church features a one-story, one-bay-square projecting entry with a gabled roof and a one-bay-square bell tower with a pyramidal roof that rises from the front of the roof ridge. Spanning the eaves sides of the main block and the projecting bay are boxed cornices that continue on the gable ends of the building as cornice returns. One stretcher bond exterior chimney bisects the rear gable end of the building. The façade, or east elevation, features one flush double-leaf wood door on the projecting bay. One multi-light double-hung stained glass window pierces each of the entry bay's two sides. Two multi-light double-hung stained glass windows flank the projecting bay. A round fixed stained glass window pierces the gable peak of the façade.

Maryland Historical Trust

Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties Form

Inventory No. BA-2099

1. Name of Property

(indicate preferred name)

historic Phoenix Methodist Episcopal Church

other

2. Location

street and number 14200 Mount Avenue not for publication

city, town Phoenix vicinity

county Baltimore County

3. Owner of Property

(give names and mailing addresses of all owners)

name Trustees of the Phoenix Methodist Episcopal Church

street and number 14200 Mount Avenue telephone Not Available

city, town Phoenix state MD zip code 21131

4. Location of Legal Description

courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. Baltimore County Courthouse liber 654 folio 284

city, town Towson tax map 34 tax parcel 181 tax ID number 0820066375

5. Primary Location of Additional Data

- ☐ Contributing Resource in National Register District
☐ Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
☐ Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
☐ Recorded by HABS/HAER
☐ Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
☐ Other:

6. Classification

Category	Ownership	Current Function	Resource Count
<input type="checkbox"/> district	<input type="checkbox"/> public	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	Contributing Noncontributing
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> building(s)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> private	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce/trade	<input type="checkbox"/> buildings
<input type="checkbox"/> structure	<input type="checkbox"/> both	<input type="checkbox"/> defense	<input type="checkbox"/> sites
<input type="checkbox"/> site		<input type="checkbox"/> domestic	<input type="checkbox"/> structures
<input type="checkbox"/> object		<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> objects
		<input type="checkbox"/> funerary	<input type="checkbox"/> Total
		<input type="checkbox"/> government	
		<input type="checkbox"/> health care	
		<input type="checkbox"/> industry	
		<input type="checkbox"/> landscape	
		<input type="checkbox"/> recreation/culture	
		<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
		<input type="checkbox"/> social	
		<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
		<input type="checkbox"/> work in progress	
		<input type="checkbox"/> unknown	
		<input type="checkbox"/> vacant/not in use	
		<input type="checkbox"/> other:	
			Number of Contributing Resources previously listed in the Inventory
			1

7. Description

Inventory No. BA-2099

Condition

<input type="checkbox"/> excellent	<input type="checkbox"/> deteriorated
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> good	<input type="checkbox"/> ruins
<input type="checkbox"/> fair	<input type="checkbox"/> altered

Prepare both a one paragraph summary and a comprehensive description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Constructed in 1888, the vernacular Phoenix Methodist Episcopal Church is a one-and-a-half-story wood frame building clad in vinyl siding with a solid random rubble stone foundation and an asphalt-shingled front gable roof. The three-bay-wide church features a on-story, one-bay-square projecting entry with a gabled roof and a one-bay-square bell tower with a pyramidal roof that rises from the front of the roof ridge. Spanning the eaves sides of the main block and the projecting bay are boxed cornices that continue on the gable ends of the building as cornice returns. One stretcher bond exterior chimney bisects the rear gable end of the building. The façade, or east elevation, features one flush double-leaf wood door on the projecting bay. One multi-light double-hung stained glass window pierces each of the entry bay's two sides. Two multi-light double-hung stained glass windows flank the projecting bay. A round fixed stained glass window pierces the gable peak of the façade.

8. Significance

Inventory No. BA-2099

Period	Areas of Significance	Check and justify below			
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input type="checkbox"/> agriculture	<input type="checkbox"/> economics	<input type="checkbox"/> health/medicine	<input type="checkbox"/> performing arts	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> archeology	<input type="checkbox"/> education	<input type="checkbox"/> industry	<input type="checkbox"/> philosophy	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> architecture	<input type="checkbox"/> engineering	<input type="checkbox"/> invention	<input type="checkbox"/> politics/government	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1900-1999	<input type="checkbox"/> art	<input type="checkbox"/> entertainment/ recreation	<input type="checkbox"/> landscape architecture	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> religion	
<input type="checkbox"/> 2000-	<input type="checkbox"/> commerce	<input type="checkbox"/> ethnic heritage	<input type="checkbox"/> law	<input type="checkbox"/> science	
	<input type="checkbox"/> communications	<input type="checkbox"/> exploration/ settlement	<input type="checkbox"/> literature	<input type="checkbox"/> social history	
	<input type="checkbox"/> community planning		<input type="checkbox"/> maritime history	<input type="checkbox"/> transportation	
	<input type="checkbox"/> conservation		<input type="checkbox"/> military	<input type="checkbox"/> other:	

Specific dates 1888-present

Architect/Builder Unknown

Construction dates 1888

Evaluation for:

☐ National Register

☐ Maryland Register

☒ not evaluated

Prepare a one-paragraph summary statement of significance addressing applicable criteria, followed by a narrative discussion of the history of the resource and its context. (For compliance projects, complete evaluation on a DOE Form – see manual.)

The Phoenix Methodist Episcopal Church, constructed in 1888, is representative of the many vernacular wood frame churches erected in small towns and rural communities throughout Baltimore County in the late 19th and early 20th century. The church dates to a second phase of growth, occurring in the late 19th century, in the milling community of Phoenix. Phoenix was established in the mid-1800s, when Thomas H. Fulton erected cotton mills in the area in 1847. After Fulton's death in 1851, the factory experienced several changes of ownership until 1875, when it was purchased by Robert Garrett and Joseph W. Jenkins.¹ By 1877, Phoenix, which was located along the Northern Central Railroad, was already well established with mills, stores, dwellings, and related buildings.² The new owners discontinued production for five years, and then, in 1881, they resumed mill operations. Shortly after reopening, the mill employed over 200 people from Phoenix and the surrounding community.³ Many of the buildings in the village of Phoenix date to this later period of the mill's ownership. Although the 1915 county atlas indicates that the community continued to thrive through the early 20th century, growth in Phoenix did not continue into the mid-1900s.

¹ J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County from the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of their Representative Men* (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881), p. 880.

² *Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland* (Philadelphia, PA: G.M. Hopkins, 1877).

³ J. Thomas Scharf, *History of Baltimore City and County from the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of their Representative Men* (Philadelphia: Louis H. Everts, 1881), p. 880.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Inventory No. BA-2099

- Atlas of Baltimore County, Maryland*. Philadelphia, PA: G. M. Hopkins, 1877.
Baltimore County Historic Inventory.
Brooks, Neal A. and Eric G. Rockel. *A History of Baltimore County*. Towson, MD: Friends of the Towson Library, Inc., 1979.
Map of Baltimore County. Philadelphia, PA: G. W. Bromley, 1915.
Scharf, J. Thomas. *History of Baltimore City and County From the Earliest Period to the Present Day: Including Biographical Sketches of Their Representative Men*. Philadelphia, PA: Louis H. Everts, 1881. Reprinted by Higginson Book Company, Salem, MA.
Sidney, J. C. *Map of the City and County of Baltimore, Maryland, from Original Surveys*. Baltimore, MD: James M. Stephens, 1850.

10. Geographical Data

Acreage of surveyed property	<u>.10 Acre</u>	
Acreage of historical setting	<u>Unknown</u>	
Quadrangle name	<u>Phoenix</u>	Quadrangle scale: <u>1:24,000</u>

Verbal boundary description and justification

Since its construction in 1888, the Phoenix Methodist Episcopal Church has been associated with tax parcel 181 of map 34 located in the Baltimore County Tax Assessor's office.

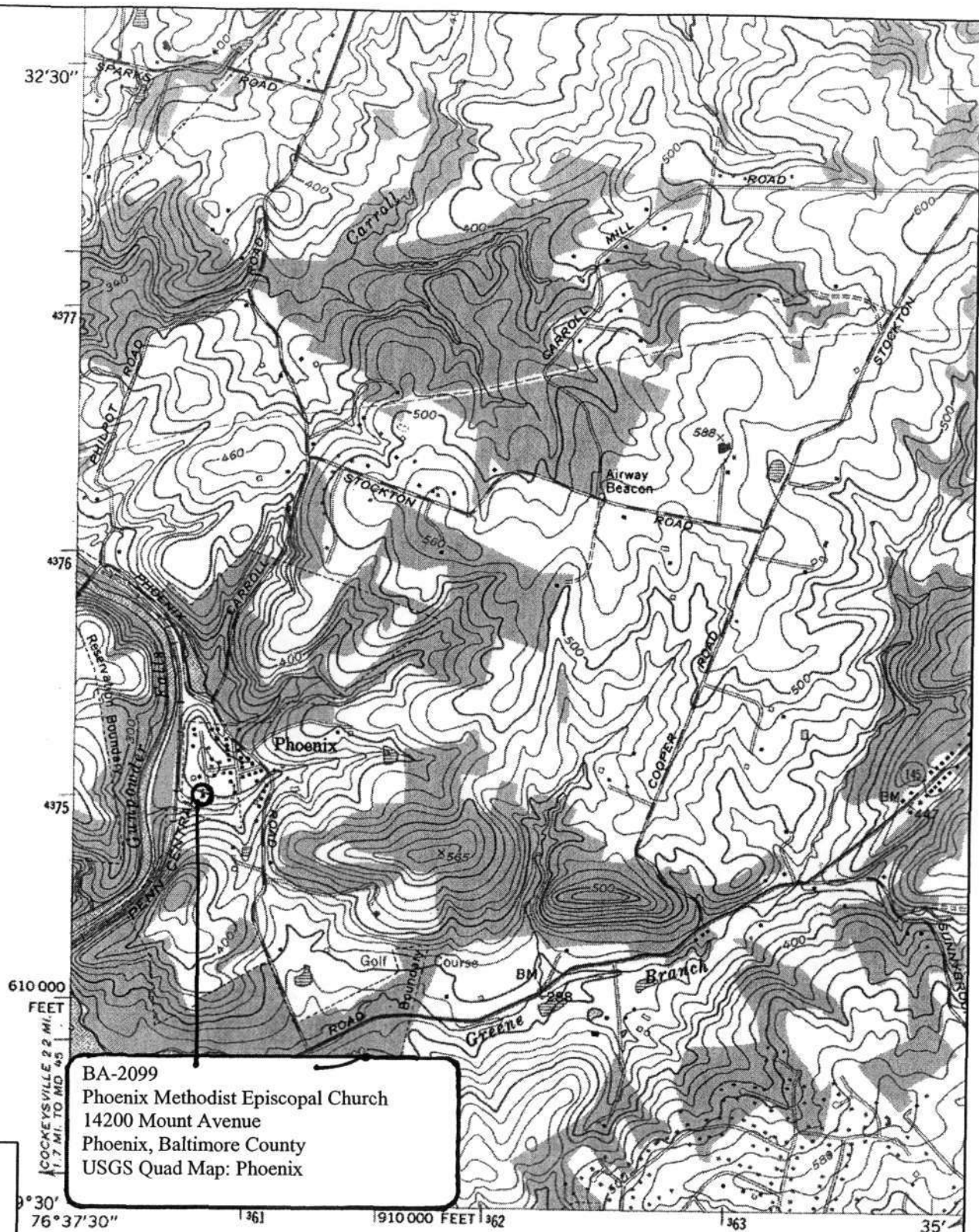
11. Form Prepared by

name/title	A. McDonald and A. Didden, Architectural Historians		
organization	EHT Tracerics, Incorporated	date	May 10, 2001
street & number	1121 5th Street NW	telephone	202.393.1199
city or town	Washington	state	DC

The Maryland Inventory of Historic Properties was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to: Maryland Historical Trust
DHCD/DHCP
100 Community Place
Crownsville, MD 21032-2023
410-514-7600





BA-2099

14200 MOUNT AVENUE, PHOENIX
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MD

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

NE CORNER

1 of 2



BA-2099

14200 MOUNT AVENUE, PHOENIX
BALTIMORE COUNTY, MARYLAND

TRACERIES

4/2001

MD SHPO

SW CORNER

2 of 2